

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action mailed on October 10, 2006, in which pending claims 1 and 3-24 are pending, with claims 19-24 withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected, and claims 9-18 were objected to.

By this response, claim 1 is amended by including the features of claim 9, and claim 9 canceled. Certain limitations added to claim 1 by the Amendment transmitted on August 3, 2003 have also been deleted, but claim 9 was indicated as being allowable in the Office Action mailed on May 3, 2006, to which the August 3 Amendment was responsive. Since claim 9 depended directly from claim 1 and was indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Entry of this Amendment and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

By this response, claims 4, 8 and 18 that depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 have been amended to provide proper antecedent bases in view of the amendments to claim 1. Entry of these amendments and allowance of these claims is requested.

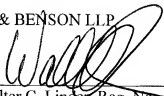
Allowance of the remaining claims 3, 5-7 and 10-18 is also requested. These claims all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1.

In conclusion, by the amendments presented herein, all pending claims 1, 3-8 and 10-18 are now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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